

## **The Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity's (AC SNG) views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

*The AC SNG is a permanent structure officially recognized by the CBD through Decision X/22 of COP 10 that aims to bring the voice of subnational governments into the agenda of the CBD. It is currently coordinated by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) in collaboration with the Government of Quebec (Canada). The AC SNG is supported by two subnational initiatives that contribute to its objectives and values, one of them being the Regions4Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP) an initiative of the nrg4SD that consists of a global community of proactive subnational governments working together to exchange knowledge and technical capacities, and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments (GoLS), led by the government of Aichi (Japan), an operational partner of the AC SNG that disseminates the importance of subnational governments to global discussions by fostering open dialogues with the Parties.*

*In response to notification 2019-008, the AC SNG and its operational partners would like to provide the following views and comments to contribute to the formulation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its discussion paper.*

### **Structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

An effective structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should consider subnational governments<sup>1</sup> as public administration authorities that operate between the national and local levels and play an essential role in articulating the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT). Subnational governments detain a high degree of knowledge of their territory that enables them to take actions to manage biodiversity and the ecosystem services it embodies. Indeed, through their spheres of competencies and mandates, subnational governments can ensure vertical integration of biodiversity policies, urban-rural linkages for territorial cohesion, awareness, and inclusiveness of civil society, including indigenous people and traditional communities and other stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and protection actions.

Therefore, we recommend the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework to clearly consider the importance of vertical mainstreaming and cooperation with subnational governments as partners of the Parties to the Convention.

### **Biodiversity Targets**

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<sup>1</sup> Subnational governments: the first immediate level of government below the national and above the local. It involves regional governments such as states, provinces, prefectures, domains, territories, lander, cantons, autonomous communities, oblasts, etc., depending on the country. Subnational governments are distinct from "local governments", which include all levels of government below the subnational.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should support, in a coherent manner, other frameworks and agendas which have a direct bearing on biodiversity, in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The members of the AC SNG are ready to build consensus around a 2050 joint vision for biodiversity, due to our relevant role in implementing actions to achieve biodiversity targets which should be closely linked to 2050 vision.

## **Implementation and NBSAPs**

Effectiveness in the implementation of the NBSAPs can be strengthened if these tools were created alongside subnational governments, therefore, we suggest the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to consider that each Party develops their national biodiversity strategies and action plans with the support and active involvement of subnational governments, according to their respective mandates and jurisdictions.

We therefore recommend that the Parties to the Convention commit to encourage and support subnational governments to develop their own tools, strategies and action plans, in alignment to the NBSAPs. Furthermore, we recommend that the new biodiversity framework considers the importance of having global sources of technical cooperation, financial resources and tools oriented to subnational governments' actions, needs, and characteristics as critical in the implementation of the CBD. A World Fund for Nature and/or a support from the Global Environment Facility could be ideal, but if it's not possible, a continental or regional fund could be created to ensure the achievement of biodiversity targets<sup>2</sup>.

## **Integrating diverse perspectives**

Based on the fact that a significant and growing number of subnational governments have been actively involved in international cooperation among themselves and their partners through the AC SNG, we strongly suggest that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Parties support a renewed, expanded and/or updated version of the "Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)" endorsed at COP10 (Dec. X/22) and enhance the Parties' support to the AC SNG.

We thus recommend that the AC SNG be formalized as the official voice of subnational governments for the CBD, by obtaining an official status in the negotiations under the CBD. As such, we invite the Parties to the CBD to nominate their subnational governments as members of the AC SNG.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER), but exclusively for natural heritage and biodiversity.

## **Indicators and review process**

Indicators should be specific, measurable and realistic, to ensure that all Parties and subnational governments can report them. They should also be time-bound and include milestones to ensure a better accountability, monitoring, review and verification<sup>3</sup>.

The review process will need specific people aimed to coordinate, monitor and ensure its fulfillment. It will be crucial to give feedback of the process to everyone.

## **Communication and outreach**

The communication strategy should devote particular attention to raising awareness of specific groups like, among others, the economic and the journalism sectors in order to reach a broader audience.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, the review process could be similar to the Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, where countries must report every 6 years, but on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework it could be every 3 or 4 years